

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/091 W

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R 121040Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5582
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2800

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, RH, XA, TZ, US
SUBJECT: HOSTILE PRESS FEATURES ON US SOUTHERN AFRICAN POLICY

REF: (A) DAR ES SALAAM 2563, (B) DAR ES SALAAM 2575,
(C) DAR ES SALAAM 2674

SUMMARY. ARTICLES IN THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TANZANIA PRESS HOSTILE TO THE US ARE NOT UNCOMMON AND MAY EVEN RUN CONTRARY TO TANZANIAN POLICIES EXPRESSED PRIVATELY. THREE RECENT FEATURE ARTICLES BLASTED US MOTIVES IN SEEKING SOLUTIONS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA, WHICH APPEARS TO RUN COUNTER TO PRESIDENT NYERERE'S SUPPORT FOR US INITIATIVES. WE TENTATIVELY CONCLUDE THAT THE ARTICLES ARE ANOTHER INSTALLMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC INTENDED TO REMIND THEIR READERS THAT WHAT THE UNITED STATES STANDS FOR IS WRONG IN PRINCIPLE, RATHER THAN A CAREFULLY PLANNED PRESS CAMPAIGN TO UNDERCUT US INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN
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AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

1. REFTELS REPORTED A SERIES OF THREE FEATURE ARTICLES IN THE TANGOV-OWNED DAILY NEWS HOSTILE TO US SOUTHERN AFRICAN INITIATIVES, ESPECIALLY IN RHODESIA. WE BELIEVE THIS PARTICULAR SERIES HAS RUN ITS COURSE, BUT IT HAS BEEN BY NO MEANS UNIQUE AND WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE MORE OF THE SAME. WE CONSIDER

THE ARTICLES TO BE OF POLICY INTEREST, APPEARING AS THEY DO IN A GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND QUITE CAREFULLY GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED NEWSPAPER, AND THAT THEY REQUIRE AN ATTEMPT AT EXPLANATION.

2. FIRST, TO SUMMARIZE BRIEFLY THE THREE ARTICLES. THE FIRST (REF A), BY "OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT", CHARGED THAT US INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE DOMINATED BY ITS DESIRE TO KEEP ITS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL GRIP ON THE WHITE-RULED TERRITORIES. THE SECOND (REF B), BY "OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT", CLAIMED THAT US INTENTIONS FOR RHODESIA WERE TO INSTALL A BLACK GOVERNMENT THAT COULD BE RELIED UPON TO PROTECT WHITE MINORITY AND "IMPERIALIST" INTERESTS. THE THIRD ARTICLE (REF C), AGAIN BY "OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT", MAINTAINED THAT ARMED STRUGGLE WAS THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE TRUE LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA.

3. THE PRINCIPAL POINT OF INTEREST IN THESE ARTICLES IS THAT THEY CONFLICT DIRECTLY WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE'S SUPPORT, GIVEN PRIVATELY, FOR UK-US EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT FOR RHODESIA. THE ARTICLES ARE PUZZLING, GIVEN OUR IMPRESSION RECEIVED FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES THAT NYERERE IS PLEASED WITH THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION AND THE INESCAPABLE FACT THAT THE ARTICLES ARE INTENDED TO TURN DAILY NEWS READERS AGAINST THE US. THE ARTICLES ALMOST CERTAINLY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED WITHOUT HIGH-LEVEL TANGOV APPROVAL.

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4. OUR EFFORTS TO LEARN THE IDENTITIES OF THE WRITERS WERE REBUFFED. "OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT" OF THE FIRST AND THIRD ARTICLES IS PROBABLY A SENIOR DAILY NEWS STAFFER. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND VOCABULARY OF "OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" STRONGLY SUGGEST A NON-TANZANIAN. THIS ARTICLE MAY HAVE BEEN WRITTEN OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY -- IT COULD HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED BY A BLOC NEWS AGENCY -- POSSIBLY SERVING AS A CENTERPIECE AROUND WHICH THE OTHER TWO ARTICLES WERE WRITTEN.

5. WE ARE UNABLE TO DRAW ANY SUCCINCT CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THE ARTICLES. THE PROBLEM OF AN APPARENTLY SCHIZOID TANGOV APPROACH TO THE US AND SOUTHERN AFRICA HAS BEEN WITH US FOR A WHILE. TANGOV OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE SYNDROME HAVE BEEN SYMPATHETIC, NOTING THAT THE DAILY NEWS EVEN LETS GO FROM TIME TO TIME AT MEMBERS OR PARTS OF THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT. WE DO NOT ACCEPT THIS AS EVIDENCE OF A "FREE PRESS" AND BELIEVE THAT ON SUCH OCCASIONS NYERERE IS GIVING PUBLICITY TO POOR PERFORMANCE.

6. TANZANIA'S PRESS IS INTENDED TO MOLD OPINION MORE THAN TO INFORM. IT COULD THEREFORE BE INFERRED THAT NYERERE WANTS TANZANIAN OPINION TO BE HOSTILE TO US MOTIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

NO EVIDENCE OF SUCH INTENT, HOWEVER, IS AVAILABLE. AT THE SAME TIME WE BELIEVE THAT THE ARTICLES DO NOT APPEAR TO BE HARMFUL TO DIRECT US INTERESTS. WE HAVE NOT MADE A SPECIFIC ISSUE OF THESE THREE ARTICLES. THE OPINION OF THOSE TANZANIANS WHOSE VIEWS ARE MOLDED BY THE DAILY NEWS IS LIKELY TO BE OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE IN OBTAINING EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

7. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THE TANGOV PERIODICALLY FEELS THE NEED TO SHORE UP ITS REVOLUTIONAR SOCIALIST CREDENTIALS. THE US, REPRESENTING TO TANGOV THE ESSENCE OF "CAPITALISM," IS A FAVORED TARGET. IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER EVIDENCE WE ARE INCLINED TO VIEW THE ARTICLES IN THIS LIGHT: THEY ARE A COMPILATION OF REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC INTENDED TO REMIND THE DAILY NEWS READERSHIP

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ONCE AGAIN THAT WHAT THE UNITED STATES STAND FOR IS WRONG IN PRINCIPLE, RATHER THAN PART OF A CAREFULLY PLANNED PRESS CAMPAIGN TO UNDERCUT US INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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